

INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING FEBRUARY 22, 2011

RAISED BILL No. 6306 AN ACT CONCERNING THE LISTING OF ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES IN MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATION PROVIDER LISTINGS, AND PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER DESIGNATIONS.

Testimony of Patricia Casey APRN IN SUPPORT OF **RAISED BILL No. 6306**

Senator Crisco, Representative Megna, and members of the Committee

Thank you for raising this bill and providing me an opportunity to speak on an important issue affecting access to primary care.

My name is Patricia Casey and I am testifying in support of **Raised Bill No. 6306**. I have provided care to individuals in the Waterbury community for over 20 years. I have been on major health panels for most of that time. However, when I changed jobs my clients were unable to find me. They would call their insurance plan and be told "she is not on the panel". Even though, in my case, I was credentialed and on the panel, I still was not listed. I am sure you can imagine how upsetting this was. A new business venture, but my clients could not find me.

I am a health care provider on the Connecticare panel. I also have Connecticare insurance personally. My directory comes and I am not in it. I treat 20 patients a week and get paid to see these people, but I'm not listed! Little chance of any one needing a provider in my area of finding me.

This does not often, if ever, happen for other listings such as physicians, psychiatrists, psychotherapists, but it happens to APRNs all the time.

In addition, I provide all aspects of primary care to many individuals; however they often cannot select me as their primary care provider. They can only choose a physician. Yet some plans assign me individuals. It should be an individual's choice. An individual should be able to choose among all available primary care providers.

As Connecticut moves forward to improve health care access we must change ineffective rules. APRN's are providing health care to individuals and should be able to be found listed in the directories.

Thank you for your consideration.